



# Stroke Policy and Protocol

REFRESHER COURSE

an

ICEMA CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERING

# Objectives

- By the end of this module EMT's, paramedics and nurses will be able to:
  - Understand and implement the Stroke Policy and Protocols.

# Time of “Last Seen Normal”

**Questions for patient/family about time of “Last seen normal”:**

- ✓ Last time patient seen completely normal?
- ✓ What was the patient doing?
- ✓ What were you (the family member) doing?
- ✓ How do you know the time?





# Get Contact Information

If no one sees the patient:

- ✓ Ask if anyone had talked to patient over the phone.
- ✓ Has a neighbor been over to visit with patient, did they see the patient in the front/back yard?
- ✓ Get contact information from the neighbor for the MD to follow up with.
- ✓ Get contact information of the person who had talked or seen patient last for the MD and hospital to follow up with.



# Questions to Ask

- ✓ Any recent surgery?
- ✓ Recent thrombolytic or anticoagulation therapy?
- ✓ Any known bleeding disorder?
- ✓ Has the patient had any recent trauma?
- ✓ Any terminal illness? Brain tumor?
- ✓ History of stroke or seizure disorder?
- ✓ Does the patient use any blood thinners?



# Prehospital Stroke Care

- ✓ CAB's, Vital Signs
- ✓ Oxygen therapy as clinically indicated.
- ✓ Identify and correct any hypoglycemia.
- ✓ Follow ICEMA protocol.





# Modified Los Angeles Pre-hospital Stroke Screen (mLAPSS) Criteria

- ✓ “Last seen normal” plus transport time.
- ✓ No history of seizures or epilepsy.
- ✓ Age greater than 40.
- ✓ At baseline, patient is not wheelchair bound or bedridden.
- ✓ Blood glucose between 60 and 400mg/dl.
- ✓ Motor Exam: Examine for obvious asymmetry-unilateral weakness (exam is positive if one or more of the following are present)
  - Facial Smile/Grimace
  - Grip
  - Arm Strength

# Examination



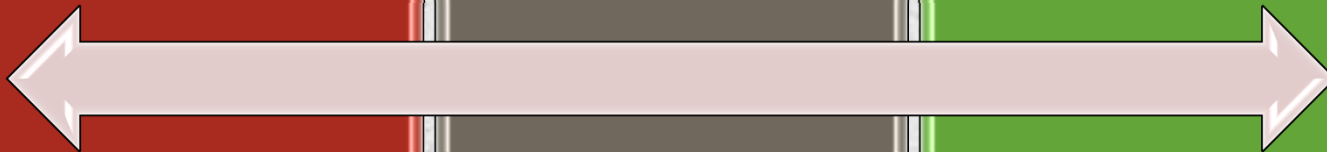
Facial  
Grimace



Arm  
Strength

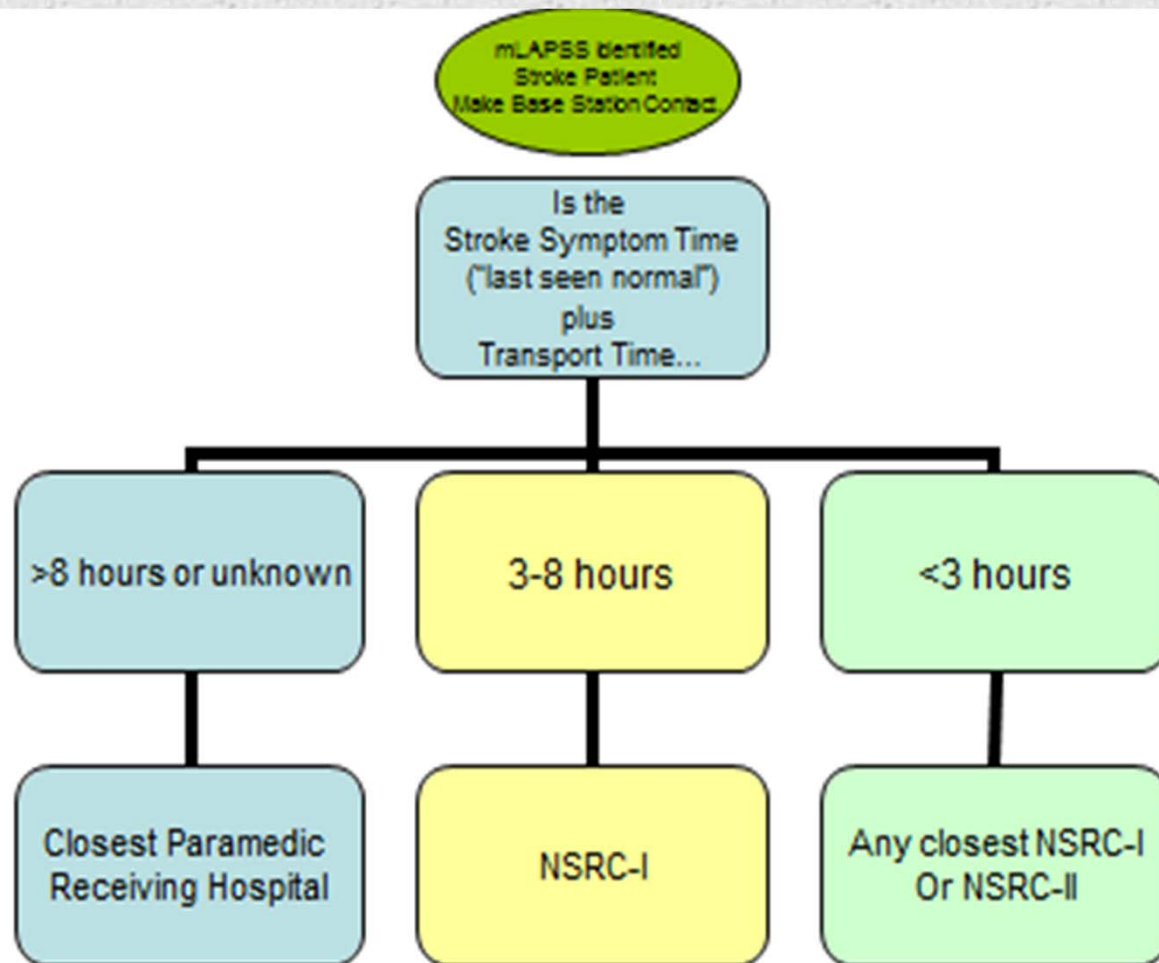


Hand  
Grips





# Stroke Decision Tree



# Documentation

- Assessment
  - **Last Seen Normal!**
  - **mLAPSS**
- Medical History
- All subjective and objective information
- Treatment rendered
- Contact Base Station



# Questions?

## REFERENCES:

Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency,  
EMS Policies and Protocols,

[http://www.sbcounty.gov/icema/mes\\_policy\\_manual.aspx](http://www.sbcounty.gov/icema/mes_policy_manual.aspx)

## CONTACT:

Chris Yoshida-McMath, RN or Sherri Shimshy,  
RN @ ICEMA (909) 388-5823 or

[www.icema.net](http://www.icema.net)



# Stroke Protocol Refresher

## Post-Test

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### SCENARIO I

At 12:15, the paramedics respond to a retirement home. The staff reports that about an hour ago, Mrs. Happy was joking with her friends and enjoying her apple pie. She walked to her favorite chair and is now confused.

1. The assessment reveals a left arm drift and a weak left grip. What other criteria of the mLAPSS do you need to determine if this patient is mLAPSS positive?
  - a. Facial droop
  - b. Age, blood glucose, facial droop, history of seizure disorder, time of "last seen normal"
  - c. You have enough information.
  - d. History of seizure disorder, facial droop and blood glucose
2. Lunchtime was at 11:30 and it is now 12:25. The NSRC-I is 15 minutes away and the NSRC-II is 10 minutes away. Where will you transport this possible stroke patient?
  - a. NSRC-I
  - b. NSRC-II
  - c. Closest paramedic receiving hospital

### SCENARIO II

A 70-year-old male is was "last seen normal" four hours ago. A neighbor calls 9-1-1 and paramedics arrive on scene. The mLAPSS was performed and the patient was found to be mLAPSS positive.

3. The ETA to the closest NSRC-II is 10 minutes away. The NSRC-I is 25 minutes away. Which NSRC will you transport to?
  - a. NSRC-I
  - b. NSRC-II
  - c. Closest paramedic receiving hospital
4. If there are no family member's at home. The paramedic should obtain contact information from the neighbor for the MD to follow-up with.
  - a. True
  - b. False

# Stroke Protocol Refresher

## Post-Test

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Before transporting to the NSRC the paramedic should:

- a. Drive to the closest NSRC
- b. Contact the NSRC base station
- c. Contact their assigned base station
- d. Drive to the closest paramedic receiving hospital